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ACADEMICIAN ALEKSANDR YEVGEN'EVICH PORAY-KOSHITS

Academician Aleksandr Yevgen'yevich Poray-Koshits was born 8 October in Kazan in 1877. In 1899-1900, while a student in Petersburg Technological Institute, he made the study of dyes and fibers his major interest. From 1905 until the present he has been on the staff of the Leningrad Technological Institute, and since 1930 has occupied the post of professor and director of chemical technology of dyes and fibers. In 1935 he was elected an active member of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

He achieved great success in his work of training highly qualified personnel in the field of chemical technology of dyes and fibers. He paid special attention to laboratory work.

He created the foremost scientific school in the chemical technology of dyes and fibers. It has been of the utmost importance to the development of the aniline dye and chemical textile industry in the USSR. The following studies may be singled out from among the scientific experimental studies in his school: (1) reactive compounds and the motility of nitrogen atoms; (2) the chromatology of organic compounds; (3) the theory of dyeing fibers; (4) spectro-photometric analysis of dyes on fibers; (5) benzene non-acid groups; (6) experimental studies in washing wool; (7) restoration of nitro, nitroso, azo compounds and indophenols; (8) extraction and use of furfural; (9) T. N. Vernikovskiy, directed by Prof Poray-Koshits, studied the single-phase method of obtaining azo dyes; (10) Prof Poray-Koshits and his co-workers completed a succession of studies on color photography.

Prof Poray-Koshits has been an outstanding organizer and an untiring builder of the Soviet aniline dye industry. His laboratories developed more than 20 different ways of obtaining dyes and intermediate products which have been introduced and used in the Soviet aniline dye industry.

During World War II, he was made a member of the Committee of the Academy of Sciences USSR for mobilizing the defense resources in the Urals of Western Siberia and Kazakhstan and directed the committee's mobilization of the organic chemical industry.

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As one of the outstanding authoritative scientists in the USSR chemical industry, he was appointed as an expert to the Committee of Inventions and Bureau of Innovations where he made more than one thousand reports on chemical inventions.

Prof Poray-Koshits is also a great public worker. Besides his work at the Technological Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, Prof Poray-Koshits carries on great public work at the All-Union Chemical Society named Mendeleyev. As chairman of the chemical-dye section of the Leningrad Union of Textile Workers he directed (1922-1931) the unification of engineers and technical workers of the Leningrad Chemical Textile Works.

During the 45 years of his scientific work he has written nine books and tracts, 133 articles for periodicals, and 13 reports. Under his editorship eight translations of books were published, as well as the articles on chemical technology of dyes and fibers published in the first edition of the Tekhnicheskoy Entsiklopedii (Technological Encyclopaedia) and Bel'shoy Sovetskoy Entsiklopedii (The Great Soviet Encyclopaedia). He owns 20 patents, some of which are now used in production. He has been an editor since 1942 of the Zhurnal Prikladnoy Khimii (Journal of Applied Chemistry), and is a member of the editorial staffs of the following periodicals: Uspekhi Khimii (Progress of Chemistry), Anilinokrasochnaya Promyshlennost' (Aniline Dyes Industry), Promyshlennost' Organicheskoy Khimii (Organic Chemical Industry). For many years (1919-1939), Prof Poray-Koshits was on the editorial staff of the Scientific Chemical Technology Publishing House and editor of Trudy Leningradskogo Khimiko-Tekhnologicheskogo Instituta (Works of the Leningrad Chemical-Technology Institute).

Prof Poray-Koshits spent some time on temporary duty abroad: in 1903-1905, studying; in 1909, representing the Technological Institute in the Seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry in London; in 1913 and 1925, for scientific work; and in 1924, on business for Aniltrust. His outstanding work in science, pedagogy, organization, technology, and public life is highly appreciated by the Party, the government, and by various institutions, organizations, and business concerns. Three times he was awarded the Soviet Union's highest decorations, Order of Lenin, Order of Labor Red Banner, and Medal of Honor. He also received the medal "For Heroic Work in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945." In 1943 he was awarded the Stalin Prize, First Class, "for many years of scientific and technical work." The governments of the RSFSR and the Tartar ASSR awarded him the title of "Honored Worker of Science and Technology." In 1947 he was elected honorary member of the All-Union Chemical Society named D. I. Mendeleyev, Leningrad Institute of Chemical Technology, and People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry and Chemical Industry.

Other organizations and concerns awarded him numerous honorary diplomas, cash prizes, and valuable gifts.

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